

## September 24, 2012 – BOARD REPORT

### PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Last week we started we were visited by primary staff developer from Columbia University Celena Larkey, who spent two days working with our kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers. We had two extremely full days of professional development. I want to read to you the email that I sent to teachers that evening following our two days of training, because I have to tell you our teachers work incredibly hard during this professional development time not only with the actual professional development time, but with flexibility due to revised schedules, providing extra coverage, traveling to the building where training takes place, and the list goes on. Please listen for all the things we covered during training as I read the email I sent to them.

“When I think back over the events of the last two days and how much you accomplished, I can hardly believe it. You talked about how to support students to increase independence and stamina through tools, routines, and charts. You watched a model lesson, practiced conferring, and watched small group lessons and mid-workshop interruptions. You looked at student writing and practiced using your new grade level continuum. You took what you learned about your students’ writing on day one and turned it into an exemplar mini lesson that you taught to students the very next day. You watched a new kind of share which included an inquiry share enabling students to drive the questioning and answering. You were open to Celena’s coaching into your lessons and conferences, and you made changes to your instruction on the fly as a result.

I want to say thank you, but that just does not seem like enough to let you know how much I appreciate you, your work, and your efforts. I am fortunate to be part of this work with you, and proud to be part of your team.”

Thursday and Friday of this week we will be visited by our intermediate staff developer Mike Ochs. Mike will work with our 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers. Please let me know if you would like to visit to observe this professional development in action. We would love to have anyone of you stop by.

We are also gearing up for our next in-service day on October 8<sup>th</sup> where our focus will be working with data in data teams, and working as grade levels and departments on assessment, literacy, and vocabulary strategies.

### AYP

Most of you probably saw in the newspaper over the weekend that the AYP results were made public for all PA school districts. This information is available to you on the PA AYP website.

As far as Midd-West, most of you are already aware of our AYP status here as presented to you in my full report several weeks ago. What the newspaper gave you was a better picture of how other districts in our area are doing with respect to AYP. Remember, that we did indeed make AYP as a district, but not as a high school specifically with respect to our economically disadvantaged group in mathematics and at Middleburg Elementary specifically with respect to our special education sub group in both reading and mathematics.

Adequate Yearly Progress is based on a number of factors including graduation rate, attendance, PSSA test scores and test participation rate. In 2012 our benchmarks were 78% in mathematics and 81% of students in reading. In 2013 the benchmarks will be 89% in math and 91% in reading. I imagine these benchmarks will be difficult for many districts to achieve.

As the Shikellamy superintendent said, there is no quick fix, but I am confident we are moving in the right direction.

### HOMEcomings WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

Please remember that the first weekend of October is the Midd-West Fest and Homecoming activities. Events will begin on Wednesday as we erect scarecrows designed by our elementary staff and students. They will again be set up on the 522 side of the high school. This year we hope that they remain up throughout the month, so I have asked the teachers to make sure they are weather ready and that they can withstand the October wind.

Friday evening there will be a bonfire at 7:30 pm at the east end of the stadium.

And the craft and street vendor show Saturday morning, which will be set up on the 522 side of the school and possibly inside depending on the weather. There will also be the typical homecoming parade starting at 4:00 pm and the homecoming game which begins at 5:00 pm.